



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO HOLD OFFICE DAY IN COLUMBUS

**COLUMBUS, TEXAS, March 20, 2006** – Representatives of USDA Rural Development will be holding an Office Day for residents of Colorado County on Thursday, April 6, 2006, to provide information, assist with applications, and answer questions regarding the Housing, Community, and Business & Cooperative Programs offered by the agency. The event will be held at the USDA Farm Service Agency Center, 2209 Walnut Street (Hwy. 90 West), Columbus, Texas, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Housing Programs that are offered by USDA Rural Development include the Guaranteed Housing Loan Program, Direct Housing Loan Program, Home Repair and Rehabilitation Grant Program, and the Self-Help Housing and Technical Assistance Program. Assistance is available to low and moderate income families that live in rural areas.

USDA Rural Development's Community Programs are designed to enhance the growth and economic opportunities of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development's Community Programs have awarded \$868 million for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 840,000 rural residents in the process.

Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in the economic stability of rural Texas. With USDA Rural Development's Business and Cooperative Programs, rural businesses can gain access funds that normally would not be available to them. With the help of the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program, Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program, Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program, and the Cooperative Development Grant and Technical Assistance Program, businesses and cooperatives in rural areas can increase the economic opportunities in rural areas throughout Texas.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information, please contact the Bastrop Local Office at 512-321-3428, Ext. 4, or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).